

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
TRANSIT COMMITTEE

March 11, 2010
Maricopa Association of Governments Office
302 North First Avenue, Suite 200, Saguaro Room
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Phoenix: Debbie Cotton, Chair	*Paradise Valley: William Mead
ADOT: Mike Normand	Peoria: Maher Hazine
Avondale: Rogene Hill	*Queen Creek: Wendy Kaserman
*Buckeye: Andrea Marquez	Scottsdale: Teresa Huish
Chandler: Dan Cook for RJ Zeder	+ Surprise: Joy Grainger for Michael Celaya
*El Mirage: Pat Dennis	Tempe: Robert Yabes for Jyme Sue McLaren
Gilbert: Michelle Gramley for Tami Ryall	*Tolleson: Chris Hagen
Glendale: Cathy Colbath	Valley Metro Rail: Wulf Grote
Goodyear: Cato Esquivel	Regional Public Transportation Authority:
Maricopa County: Mike Sabatini for	Carol Ketcherside
Mitch Wagner	
Mesa: Mike James	

* Members neither present nor represented by proxy. + - Attended by Videoconference
- Attended by Audioconference

OTHERS PRESENT

Kevin Wallace, MAG	Joe Bowar, Phoenix
Alice Chen, MAG	Jorie Bresnahan, Phoenix
Patty Camacho, MAG	Ken Kessler, Phoenix
Marc Pearsall, MAG	Jorge Luna, Phoenix
Kristen Sexton, Avondale	Dave Meadows, Phoenix
Anne Marie Riley, Chandler	Nick Sharkey, Phoenix
Jenna Goad, Glendale	Bob Antila, RPTA
Jeff Martin, Mesa	

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:36p.m. by Chair Debbie Cotton of the City of Phoenix. Chair Cotton welcomed everyone in attendance and announced that a Quorum was present.

Chair Cotton introduced one member of the Transit Committee who was participating remotely for this meeting, Committee member Joy Grainger (Surprise) via teleconference.

Chair Cotton asked if there were any public comment cards and if there were any members of the public who would like to comment. Chair Cotton stated that she had not received any request to speak cards from the audience and proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

2. Approval of Draft February 11, 2010 Minutes

Chair Cotton asked if there were any comments, changes or corrections to the meeting minutes. Hearing none, Chair Cotton called for a motion to approve the draft minutes from February 11.

Mr. Mike James moved to approve the draft February 11, 2010 meeting minutes as written. Vice Chair Cathy Colbath seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The Draft February 11, 2010 meeting minutes were approved as written.

Chair Cotton stated that there were no additional comments and proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

3. Call to the Audience

There being no 'request to speak' cards from the audience, Chair Cotton proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

4. Transit Program Manager's Report

Chair Cotton introduced Mr. Wallace, MAG Transit Program Manager, for this agenda item.

Mr. Wallace stated that information on the potential sweep of LTAF funds by the Arizona State Legislature had been provided at each Committee member's place. He then noted that in February, the Committee had recommended a policy on the distribution of ARRA-2 funds, if the program was authorized by Congress. Mr. Wallace then explained that at yesterday's MAG Management Committee meeting, the Management Committee had referred the policy back to the Transit Committee and the Transportation Review committee for review, in light of the potential sweep of the LTAF funds. Because there was not enough time to place this item on the agenda for action, the Committee was being asked for comments only, and the issue would

be heard later in the month by the Transportation Review Committee. Mr. Wallace noted that the policy recommended by the Committee did include provisions to allow for funding to be allocated to transit and ADA operations, but the distribution of funds could potentially be changed to a population based formula, as was the case with the LTAF program.

Chair Cotton asked if there were any comments.

Ms. Rogene Hill noted that there is some confusion on Small Urbanized (UZA) Area and how it fits into these policies. She inquired if Avondale were to receive separate ARRA funds as it is a separate Small Urbanized Area. Mr. Wallace replied that this policy applies to entire region. Mr. Ken Kessler, City of Phoenix staff, clarified that the original ARRA program included separate allocations for the Avondale and Phoenix UZAs. Ms. Alice Chen, MAG staff, specified that the funds would only be for operations and preventative maintenance. Discussion followed. Mr. Wallace reiterated that the item was not on the agenda for action.

Chair Cotton asked if there were any further comments.

Mr. Cato Esquivel inquired if MAG knows what the funding amount will be between two urbanized areas. Mr. Wallace responded that the funding levels had not been set, but it was assumed that they would be similar to the original ARRA program.

Chair Cotton stated that there were no additional comments and moved onto the next item on the agenda.

5. Programming 2009 and 2010 for the FY 2008-2012 MAG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and the Transit Component of the Draft 2011-2015 MAG TIP.

Chair Cotton introduced Mr. Wallace, MAG Transit Program Manager, for this agenda item.

Mr. Wallace explained that there were two items on the agenda for action, and that the Transit Committee had reviewed this information at the February meeting. Mr. Wallace noted that the Committee was using the Valley Metro/RPTA project selection guidelines, and that in the future, the Committee would develop a new project evaluation and prioritization methodology. He explained that MAG staff had programmed all of the available 5307 and 5309-Fixed Guideway/Modernization funds for 2009 and 2010, and that additional funding for regionwide preventative maintenance had been programmed in the following years. At a future date, MAG staff will initiate a call for projects and the Committee will allocate these funds.

Mr. Wallace then reviewed the changes to the listing of projects that had been made since the February Committee meeting. He noted that the Valley Metro/RPTA Transit Life Cycle Program (TLCP) does not program federal funds by project, but instead identifies federal funding targets by program area, such as 80% federal funding for fleet and 50% federal funding for facilities. Mr. Wallace indicated that it was the responsibility of the MAG Transit Committee to prioritize and program 5307 and 5309-Fixed Guideway/Modernization funds in the TIP. Ms. Alice Chen added that MAG staff had reviewed all TLCP projects and all have been accounted for in report.

Mr. Wallace noted that the funding for the Valley Metro/RPTA Origins & Destinations Survey had been programmed, as discussed by the Committee in February. Mr. Wallace then explained that a 2013 listing was included to complete the L-101/Bell Road Park and Ride, and that a federal discretionary grant would be required to fully fund the project. Ms. Chen then reviewed other minor changes from the previous month.

Chair Cotton asked if there were any comments or questions.

Mr. Dan Cook asked for further explanation of the L-101/Bell Road Park and Ride project. Mr. Wallace explained that this was a request from Glendale to move the design phase by one year. Ms. Colbath said that this park and ride has been a part of the group of Transit Center structures list for some time now, and this one in the Arrowhead Area would serve a variety of bus, express and shuttles.

Mr. Cook asked how many parking spots were in the plans, and whether it was a shade structure or a parking structure. Ms. Colbath responded that it is proposed to be a structure due to limited footprint at mall facility, but that parking space totals were not available at the time.

Mr. Cook asked if the region has funded other structures for park and ride. Mr. Wulf Grote noted that the only other one in the Valley that has been a structure was paid for privately by a developer at METRO's Apache and McClintock station.

Mr. Yabes asked if the \$12 million in federal funds is for Glendale's park and ride. He requested that MAG foot note the sheets to differentiate local and federal funding in the description sheet. Mr. Wallace explained that this project reflected a combination of three park & ride facilities, and that the project depended on a large federal discretionary allocation. Mr. Wallace also noted that MAG had not allocated 5307 funds for this project, but once this Committee has a prioritization process in place, this park and ride would be eligible for consideration.

Mr. James asked if there been any modeling for the demand of this \$16 million park and ride and mentioned that the region should also have some policy discussion for implementing structured parking. Mr. James also noted that the Federal Transit Administration is promoting mixed use projects instead of single use, so this project could be contrary to FTA guidelines..

Mr. Cook suggested that the description should also be changed to label this a 'structured park and ride lot'. Ms. Colbath replied that no final decisions had been made on the final design of the project, so it may be too early to re-identify this as a 'structured park and ride lot'.

Mr. Cook added that it should be listed as either surface or structured as a clarification in the description, which could be changed in the future. He stated that we need to ensure that the process is fully transparent so that the Committee can make informed decisions.

Mr. Maher Hazine asked if the \$4.4 million in right of way purchases for this specific park and ride was correct. Chair Cotton added that since there are two discretionary items (requiring a federal allocation), that it would be more prudent that these park & ride items be moved to local funding columns until such time as we can clarify their funding source in the future.

Ms. Hill inquired if the Peoria (park & ride – 2014) funding was secured. Ms. Chen replied the funding was secured because it was included in the Transit Life Cycle Program (TLCP).

Mr. Wallace added that the park & ride were in the TLCP. He added that since the cost of the Glendale park and ride facility (P&R) was higher than normal, the project would not be programmed until the Transit Committee could discuss the issue at a future meeting when a process for calling for projects was established.

Ms. Chen restated that the item was on the agenda for information, discussion, and recommendation to approve the FY 2008-2012 amendments and modifications to the MAG TIP as amended and to approve the Listing of Projects for inclusion in the Draft FY2011-2015 TIP.

Mr. Cook requested that the pending action be modified to instead categorize the Glendale park and ride as locally funded until federal funding could be secured at a future date.

Chair Cotton asked if there were any comments. Hearing none, Chair Cotton called for a motion. Ms. Hill motioned to approve the FY 2008-2012 amendments and modifications to the MAG TIP as amended and to approve the Listing of Projects for inclusion in the Draft FY2011-2015 TIP. Mr. Yabes seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Cotton stated that there were no additional comments and moved onto the next item on the agenda.

6. Update on METRO High Capacity Transit Planning Project Activities

Chair Cotton introduced Mr. Wulf Grote, METRO Director for Project Development, for the agenda item. Mr. Wulf Grote provided update on various High Capacity Transit corridor studies. He noted that METRO staff was working to update the rail element of the TLCP. Mr. Grote presented the current financial picture for the Proposition 400 revenue shortfall. He reported a decline of \$438 million in FY08/09 and \$62 million in FY09/10. Mr. Grote stated that local funding also had been reduced by \$260 million for FY 09/10. He explained that the federal funding obligations would be affected by lower regional and local funding available for the required local match.

Mr. Grote summarized the Future High Capacity / Revised Light Rail Future Projects Schedule for several projects. He discussed the project schedules for the Northwest Extension (Phase 1), the Central Mesa Light Rail Transit (LRT) Extension, the Tempe South Corridor Alternatives Analysis (AA), the Mill Ave Modern Streetcar, the Rural Road BRT, the Phoenix West Mainline, and the Glendale AA (Phase I) and noted that all of the projects have been delayed beyond their original dates in the RTP.

Chair Cotton asked who the Federal contacts were for the Streetcar project. Mr. Grote responded that the Streetcar projects was a Small-New Starts project, which was reviewed and evaluated by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in Washington DC. He added that the Regional FTA in San Francisco provided additional assistance with grants and environmental work.

Mr. James requested that the Committee should add a future agenda item from METRO updating the Committee on the status of cost, ridership, community issues and public input on High Capacity Corridor. Mr. Grote stated that all High Capacity Transit Corridor AA's would be presented to the MAG Transit Committee for approval in the future. He added that METRO also would provide the Committee with updates on a regular basis regarding various High Capacity Transit corridor studies.

Chair Cotton asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none, and the Chair moved onto the next item on the agenda.

7. Commuter Rail Studies Planning Update

Chair Cotton introduced Marc Pearsall, Transit Planner III, for the agenda item. Mr. Pearsall explained that the item is for information and discussion only, but would be on the Committee's agenda for action in April. He summarized the elements of MAG's Commuter Rail Study program. He reported that the Commuter Rail Study Funding was a component of the 2004 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). Mr. Pearsall stated the study would determine feasibility of commuter rail service in MAG Region. He added that ridership forecasting, cost effectiveness, capital/ operating cost estimates, vehicle technology recommendations and implementation steps were identified in MAG Commuter Rail Strategic Plan in 2008.

Then, Mr. Pearsall discussed three specific studies launched in November 2008. He reported on the Grand Avenue Study that focused on the area from downtown Phoenix to Wickenburg (BNSF corridor). He also discussed the Yuma West Project with a study area from downtown Phoenix to Buckeye that included technical analyses to Sky Harbor and Tempe. Mr. Pearsall also addressed the System Study Project, which was added to MAG Work Program in January 2009.

The System Study would evaluate existing freight corridors and possible extensions, prioritize the implementation of commuter rail service through evaluation of: ridership potential, operating strategies, capital and operating costs and railroad owner-partnership agreements for the MAG recommended, X-shaped, 110-mile, four-line system in the MAG region.

Mr. Pearsall announced that the 'Next Steps' would be featured as recommendations in the Commuter Rail System Study. He reported that the Next Step's Five-Year Plan between 2010 and 2015 would include:

The passage of enabling legislation relative to liability and indemnification, coordination with railroads, the development of partnerships to investigate options for Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the commuter rail authority and the railroad.

- Advancement of the design and operating costs,
- Continued coordination between MAG with ADOT on the upcoming Phoenix-Tucson Alternatives Analysis (AA),
- Initiation of collaborative local planning efforts,
- Identification of funding commitments,
- Initiation of the process for federal funding,
- Development of a governance plan and preserving future corridor options.

Mr. Pearsall noted that long term plans for 2015 and beyond included a formalized partnership with railroads, obtaining committed funding sources such as local and federal, designing, constructing, and operating an initial commuter rail system and further planning to develop a seamless transportation system and meet regional sustainable goals. He reported that the three studies' Executive Summaries and Recommendations would be presented to the Committee in April for information, discussion, and recommendation for adoption.

Chair Cotton asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none, and the Chair moved onto the next item on the agenda.

8. Request for Future Agenda Items

Chair Cotton asked if the members of the Transit Committee had any issues that they would like to see as a future agenda item.

Mr. M. James requested MAG staff present on the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Livability-Sustainability initiatives and requirements in relation to parking structures. He requested that MAG present the information in a few months for policy discussions on when the MAG region should prioritize and fund parking structures.

9. Next Meeting Date

Chair Cotton thanked those in attendance for attending the MAG Transit Committee meeting. She announced that the next meeting of the MAG Transit Committee would be held on Thursday, April 8, 2010 at 1:30 pm in the Saguaro Room. There being no further business, Chair Cotton adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.